

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting  
Monday, November 17, 2014  
Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center

The regular monthly meeting of the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Monday, November 17, 2014 at the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center. The following commissioners were present: Chair John Marr, DD Dawson, Joe Riley, Abe Shearer and Ritchie Vaughn. Also present were Lee Foerster, David Wigginton and Wanda Jones from Parks and Recreation.

1. Welcome – Chair John Marr welcomed all present.
2. Approval of September Meeting Minutes – with the October meeting being cancelled, and no additions or corrections, the minutes of the September meeting were approved.
3. Dog Park Grand Opening – The Grand Opening of the Dog Park at Smithland was held on September 17<sup>th</sup> with approximately 40 dogs in attendance. At the time the parking area was graveled but now it is paved with one handicap parking space. The park has two different fields, one for small dogs and one for bigger dogs. Since the public is putting their dogs together, we will start opening one field at a time to help with turf erosion. Maintaining the turf in the runway is going to be a challenge. We may have to use 4 lanes instead of two or use some other material that is environmental and dog safe.
4. Ralph Sampson Park Shelter Demolition – The old shelter and the concrete pad have been removed from Ralph Sampson Park. The area has been seeded. The restrooms are being repurposed and will be used for athletic storage.
5. Blue Stone Trail Ribbon Cutting – Blue Stone Trail opened on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The trail runs between Stone Spring to Hillside. Pervious pavers were used at the entrances of the bridges and a bollard will be at the different street entrances to the trail.
6. Westover Pool Swim Team Winter Schedule –The pool is very busy in the winter with various swim teams and diving teams as well as open swim for the public. Saturday is the only day that is not used by a swim team.
7. Discussion of Fiscal Year 2015-16 Capital Improvement Program – Lee presented Capital Improvement project request forms that were submitted to City Council. These requests included bring parks up to handicap compliance, new playground equipment, lighting for athletic fields, Westover Pool deck resurfacing and zero depth entry, renovation of the Purcell Pond, purchase of a new skid loader and park development at Smithland.
8. The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Race to Beat Breast Cancer Run was held October 25<sup>th</sup> and raised approximately \$15,000. Rockingham County Recreation and Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation hosted a playground safety and training certification course, with approximately 70 participants. The football season went smoothly this year, with parent behavior greatly improved. This may be due to individual team meetings, HPD presence and Anthony Hill's hard work. Westover Pool is 30 years old.

9. Comments, questions from Commissioners – DD thanked Lee for the Dog Park. What are future plans for Blue Stone Trails? The trail will be increased to go from downtown to Pleasant Hill. This is a Public Works project. Parks and Recreation will maintain the part of the trail that goes through the park, JMU will maintain the section through their campus, and public works will maintain the rest. What is the lifetime of playground equipment? It varies between the parks and the use. Will all playground equipment be replaced? It depends on the wear & tear and compliance. Any injuries on the new rope climb at Westover? No. Will the renovation of the Purcell Pond make less maintenance in the future? There is little maintenance to the pond. Do you think all or some of the Capital Improvement funds will be granted? Last year most Capital Improvement funds were not granted by the City Council and probably will not be granted this year. Why is football run differently than baseball or soccer? It has always been this way but we are moving towards a parent participation league. We will still provide the equipment, playing fields and referees. Do you think there will be enough parent participation? Tommy Thomas has 11 people who really want to do this. How much will the city save by turning this league over? Maybe \$5000.00.
10. Adjournment – with no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

**There will not be a meeting in December. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center. (The third Monday is a holiday)**